Aden

504 not spent in the struggle for staff and the effort to keep abreast
505 of the shipping expansion. We found time to decasualise our labour and to revise and improve our terms of service until now they bear little resemblance to what they were ten years
• [745] ago. A families' medical service was introduced, which was a sort of modified National Insurance Scheme confined to the families of our employees, and this was but one of the many improvements which the wisdom of the Trustees enabled us to make.

504 The future of the Port was never far from the minds of the Trustees, nor was the need to keep pace with the Suez Canal development and our rival across the Gulf of Aden, Djibouti, the capital of the French Somali Coast. Development plans were made by our consulting engineers in London and they included the deepening of some of the berths to thirty-nine feet. The deepest berths we had in 1948 were thirty-six feet. Land reclamation schemes to utilise the spoil from the necessary dredging were conceived and were approved. We had a busy time, for with all these preoccupations we had to plan and build accommodation for our own rapidly expanding staff. This was an immediate and urgent necessity and it was done.

The port development, dredging and land reclamation schemes, which started on paper in the late forties, have now either been completed by my successor, or are in the last stages of implementation. They do not contain any provision for deep-water alongside berths, although I, like practically all my predecessors, gave much consideration to this proposition and even went so far as to have a scheme prepared by our Consulting Engineers. However, after consultation with the Directors of the leading steamship Companies I abandoned the idea and decided instead to deepen the channel to Ma'alla Wharf to eighteen feet, and to extend that wharf so that large coasting vessels could come alongside there and load and discharge. The cost of alongside berths for the large passenger and cargo ships would be tremendous and unjustified unless and until Aden becomes a major terminal port with thousands and thousands of tons of cargo to be handled weekly.

S:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden M M1

of the Garrison, and famine in the hinterland), the floating population increased considerably, and in the absence of proper accommodation were perforce allowed to construct and live in *kutcha* huts in specially demarcated areas.

While control is exercised as far as is possible to prevent epidemics, these are slum areas, which can only be cleared by Government building several hundred working-class houses at a sub-economic rent; areas for this purpose are being reserved under the Town Planning Scheme.

The Town Planning Scheme is gradually taking shape, but in the absence of adequate trained staff, the work can only make slow process. Relaxation on the restriction of building by private enterprise has, however, led to the issue of 78 Permanent Building Permits in 1947 compared with 21 during 1946.

The shortage of some building materials, particularly semi-manufactured iron and steel products and sanitary fittings, is still acute and many projects are held up for this reason.

During 1947 the Township Authority was able to embark on two housing schemes.

(1) In Sheikh Othman 40 houses were erected for working-class families. The scheme is financed in part from a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

(2) An area in Crater was planned on which Government intends to erect 36 working-class houses of a slightly better type and in which 86 plots were made available for owner-occupiers to erect houses for themselves, a standard plan having been drawn up and approved by the Township Authority so that building could be done as cheaply as possible. Both Township Authorities of Aden and Sheikh Othman set up permanent Housing Committees whose functions are to allocate all houses erected by Government other than houses erected specifically for occupation by Government employees. The Committee set up in the Fortress Area decided on the allocation of plots referred to above on which houses were to be erected by private enterprise. As town planning legislation has not yet been enacted, there has been some delay in making available plots of land in the Fortress Area on which better-class houses could be erected by private enterprise on any substantial scale. Residential building has been confined mainly to reconstruction or adding storeys to existing houses.

In addition, private building was encouraged where possible.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF

There are no social insurance schemes in Aden Colony.

A Government social welfare organisation is being built up gradually, but has been handicapped through lack of staff. A Poor Relief Committee, financed partly through public subscriptions, but notably through

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance (*No.* 23 *of* 1942)

This legalises trade unions and makes provision for their registration and the audit of their accounts. The English law as regards "intimidation" is followed.

Contracts of Employment (*Indigenous Workers*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 45 *of* 1942)

This provides for the employment of natives of Asia or Africa and requires contracts of employment for periods over six months to be in writing and approved by an authorised officer. It provides for the repatriation of employees working in other territories.

Labour Ordinance (*No.* 6 *of* 1943)

This regulates contracts of employment, requires contracts in writing to be approved by the District Commissioner, and makes provision for deeds of apprenticeship.

There is no old age pension scheme in Aden, but small grants from a Poor Relief Fund are made to the aged destitute.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Statement of Revenue for 1947–48 *as compared with the Revenue of the previous years*

	1947–48 Rs.	1946–47 Rs.	1945–46 Rs.
1. Direct Taxation	37,15,064	44,33,434	59,44,407
2. Customs and Excise	25,48,427	22,18,674	18,58,189
3. Stamps and Licences	4,85,761	5,34,891	5,44,097
4. Receipts for or in aid of specific Government Services	4,88,239	7,05,990	6,34,710
5. Contribution and Local Reimbursements	2,13,131	2,15,670	2,29,917
6. Reimbursements by His Majesty's Government	2,60,007	2,57,036	2,47,027
7. Posts and Telephones	9,96,441	9,46,785	6,33,211
8. Miscellaneous	13,23,696	11,19,402	7,90,499
9. Water Supply	6,93,671	7,01,587	7,02,787
10. Electricity Supply	11,72,954	11,38,254	10,10,567
11. Land Sales	1,68,363	14,049	27,301
12. Colonial Development and Welfare Fund	46,667	—	—
TOTAL Rs.	1,21,12,421	1,22,85,772	1,26,22,712

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

tary arrangements, was begun under the aegis of the Aden Settlement in 1943, and this policy is being continued by Government.

During the war and for a period afterwards, for a variety of reasons (principally large military constructional works, increase in the strength of the Garrison, and famine in the hinterland), the floating population increased considerably, and in the absence of proper accommodation were perforce allowed to construct and live in *kutcha* huts in specially demarcated areas.

While control is exercised as far as is possible to prevent epidemics these are slum areas, which can only be cleared by Government building several hundred working-class houses at a sub-economic rent; areas for this purpose are being reserved under the Town Planning Scheme.

The Town Planning Scheme is gradually taking shape, but in the absence of adequate trained staff, the work can only make slow progress.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF

There are no social insurance schemes in Aden Colony.

A Government social welfare organisation is being built up gradually, but has been handicapped through lack of staff. A Poor Relief Committee, financed partly through public subscriptions, but notably through Government which contributes Rs. 50,000 per annum, dispenses relief to the aged and infirm. A voluntary committee also collects materials and funds, especially for children's welfare.

There are no social welfare officers or probation officers at present; the appointment of a social welfare officer has been approved, but he has not yet been appointed. An Assistant Welfare Officer who was trained in the United Kingdom arrived in December, 1947, and has taken up his duties.

Chapter 8: Legislation

Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed during the year 1948, of which the following are the more important:

Income Tax (Relief Amendment) Ordinance, 1948, No. 3, which gives family relief in respect of one wife and not more than four children. The loss involved by this concession has been provided against by increasing taxation in the higher grades.

Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948, No. 4, which carries out the recommendation of a locally appointed Prison Reform Committee by reducing the number of prison offences which are punishable with whipping.

Widows' and Orphans' Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 1948, No. 19, which provides *inter alia* that a certain class of employee of the Aden Port Trust shall be eligible to contribute.

Aden Protectorate Levies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1948, No. 20, which provides for the grant of pensions to native officers and enlisted clerks.

Appeals to the Court of Appeal Ordinance, 1948, No. 22, which

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

874 will soon be available as well as the full-time course for younger students.

466 Wages remained stable throughout 1950, but towards the end of the year some increases were reported by employers in the building trade. The legal minimum wages remain as fixed by Regulation in April, 1949. There are probably some employers who still pay less than the required [435] minimum to unskilled labourers, usually immigrants from the Yemen. A comparative table of prices of a few commodities (*see* p. 11) indicate a fairly general rise in prices, and it is to be expected that in the near future there may be a general demand for increased wages.

466 Efforts have been made throughout the year to create better industrial relations by personal contact, visits and inspections of all 468 places of work, and by some talks, posters, and leaflets. There are no trade unions in the Colony, and the workpeople have no conception of organisation or collective bargaining. Trade stoppages reported during 1950 numbered five, and about 2,000 working days were lost. The disputes were in all cases of a purely local nature involving one concern and its employees. All were ended by agreement and conciliation. In no cases was the Trade Disputes Ordinance invoked.

466 The only labour legislation introduced was an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance requiring compulsory notice of certain non-fatal accidents. This became law on 31st December, 1950, and the effect cannot yet be judged. The Labour Officer, the Principal of the Government Technical College and the District Commissioner are Factory Inspectors for the Colony. During the year, 102 inspections were made of factories registered under the requirements of the Ordinance. The main objects of these visits were to educate employers and works managers in the requirements of the Ordinance, and to suggest the use of guards for the more dangerous machinery. An attempt to organise first-aid classes for foreman and workers had to be abandoned owing to complete lack of support.

745 There are no Government schemes either contributory or otherwise for sick pay, unemployment relief, or old age pensions for the ordinary worker. Apart from the provisions made by Government and the Aden Port Trust for its employees, only four commercial concerns are known to have contributory schemes for employee gratuities. Scarcely half of the employees who could benefit from these schemes have so far become contributors. A number of the larger and old established firms provide some medical services, and at their discretion give gratuities to long service employees.

647 Towards the end of 1950 the Labour Advisory Board was freshly constituted. In the absence of any workers' organisations, special effort was made to nominate some non-employers on the Board. This Board should be a most useful body which will continuously have under examination all labour problems in the Colony.

8:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM 1

Workmen's compensation is now fairly generally understood by work people, and an increasing number of employers avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Labour Department in settling their claims.

There is no provision for unemployment assistance. There are no general schemes, either contributory or otherwise, for sick pay, unemployment relief, or old age pension for the ordinary worker. Apart from the provisions made by Government and the Aden Port Trust for their employees, only four industrial concerns are known to have contributory schemes and scarcely half of the employees who could benefit from these schemes have so far become contributors. A number of the larger and old established firms at their discretion give gratuities to long-service employees.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There are no training, rehabilitation, apprenticeship or training-within-industry schemes. Towards the end of 1952, however, a committee of practical engineers and builders under the chairmanship of the Principal of the Technical College produced, as a result of considerable study, recommendations for apprenticeship and trade testing schemes.

PRICES OF CERTAIN CONTROLLED COMMODITIES AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1952

	Unit	*Price*
Sugar, white	lb.	60c.
Sugar, brown	lb.	55c.
Flour, Australian	lb.	52c.
Butter	lb. tin	*Sh.* 4/63—*Sh.* 5/00
Cheese, Kraft	12 oz.	*Sh.* 2/55
Petrol	gallon	*Sh.* 2/64
Soap, Key Pale	cube of 250 grammes	52c.
Scotch Whisky	quart	*Sh.* 19/50
Kerosene	4 gallons	*Sh.* 10/15—*Sh.* 12/50
Rice, long, boiled, Burma	lb.	84c.
Coffee husk	lb.	80c.—*Sh.* 1/20
Eggs	each	19c.
Dry Ginger, West African	lb.	*Sh.* 2/88
Tamarind	lb.	57c.—67c.
Dry Chillies	lb.	*Sh.* 2/25—*Sh.* 3/00
Cumin seeds, Indian	lb.	*Sh.* 2/63
Cassia	lb.	*Sh.* 1/22
Tea, Calcutta fanning	lb.	*Sh.* 3/00
Milk, fresh	1½lb. bottle	75c.
Firewood	traditional bundle	5c.
Matches, Key Brand	box	5c.
Charcoal	lb.	14c.—21c.
Loongies, various makes	each	*Sh.* 3/75—*Sh.* 17/50
Makramas, Sh. Othman (headkerchieves)	each	*Sh.* 3/75
Cigarettes, various brands	50	*Sh.* 2/50—*Sh.* 3/00
Bread (sold by baker)	lb.	56c.
White shirting, various makes	yard	*Sh.* 2/44—*Sh.* 3/19
White, drill, various makes	yard	*Sh.* 3/00—*Sh.* 5/44
Khaki, drill, various makes	yard	*Sh.* 3/00—*Sh.* 4/87